

Appl. No. 10/686,340
Response Dated June 28, 2005
Reply to Office Action of March 28, 2005

REMARKS

Claims 2-18 are presently pending in this application. Claim 1 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Claims 2, 4, 5, 7, and 14 have been amended. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2 and 3 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

Claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Claim 3 depends from independent claim 2.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to claims 2 and 3.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejection

Claims 1 and 4-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0048265 to Glass ("Glass"). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 1 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, rendering the §102(b) rejection of this claim moot. Claims 4 and 5 have been amended to depend from independent claim 2. Claim 6 depends from claim 4.

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Applicants have amended independent claim 7 to recite "the zero-echo canceling system adapted...to calculate an error signal as a difference between the zero-echo and the zero-echo canceling signal." Applicants submit that Glass fails to teach or suggest at least this feature of amended independent claim 7.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that independent claim 7 is allowable and that claims 8-14 are allowable by virtue of their dependency from independent claim 7, as well as own their own merits.

Applicants have amended independent claim 14 to recite "the zero-echo canceling system adapted...to calculate an error signal as a difference between the zero-echo and the zero-echo canceling signal." Applicants submit that Glass fails to teach or suggest at least this feature of amended independent claim 14.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that independent claim 14 is allowable and that claims 15-18 are allowable by virtue of their dependency from independent claim 14, as well as on their own merits.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection.

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35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection

Claims 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Glass in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0097863 to Rahamim et al. ("Rahamim"). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claims 17 and 18 depend from amended independent claim 14. Applicants submit that Even if Glass could be combined with Ragamim, which Applicants do not admit, such combination fails to teach or suggest all of the features of independent claim 14 and thus is insufficient to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness with respect to the claim. Moreover, Applicants submit that there is no motivation to combine the teaching of Glass with Rahamim and that there is no reasonable expectation of success to make such combination.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants submit that amended independent claim 14 is non-obvious and patentable over the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination. Applicants submit, therefore, that claims 17 and 18 which depend from independent claim 14 are also non-obvious and patentable over Glass and Rahamim, whether taken alone or in combination. See MPEP § 2143.03.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection.

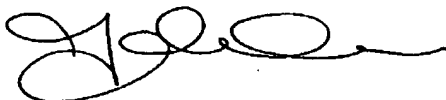
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CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance and request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 724-933-3387 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP



John F. Kacvinsky, Reg. No. 40,040
Under 37 CFR 1.34(a)

Dated: June 28, 2005

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